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• CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

POLLS DONE AND DUSTED, FUEL GETS PRICEY

Fuel prices are creeping up though economic activity is sliding due to Covid second wave

18 DAYS since the last price revision. Oil companies froze rate revisions during electioneering possibly to soften the blow in poll-bound states like West Bengal

CITY	PETROL (₹)	DIESEL (₹)
Mumbai	96.95 (+0.12)	87.98 (+0.17)
Chennai	92.55 (+0.12)	85.90 (+0.15)
New Delhi	90.55 (+0.15)	80.91 (+0.18)
Kolkata	90.76 (+0.14)	83.78 (+0.17)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

BENGALURU COVID-19 HELPLINE 1912

BBMP ZONAL 24/7 HELPLINE NUMBERS					
	East Zone	080-25355100	Bommanahalli Zone	8884666670
	West Zone	080-68248454	Yelahanka Zone	9480685964
	South Zone	8431816718	R.R. Nagar Zone	080-28601050
	Mahadevpura Zone	080-23010101/23010102	Dasarahalli Zone	080-29590057/29635904/5906

To report illegal sale of Remdesivir and Oxygen, as well as for complaints regarding allocation of hospital beds, call helpline 112

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

For information : Covid related queries, Covid Testing Centers, Covid Vaccination Centers, Medical Advice on Covid Symptoms call APTHAMITHRA Helpline 14410

For emergency cases, Ambulance facility and Inter -Hospital shifting of COVID-19 patients, call Helpline 108

Mask Up KARNATAKA

If you are above 18 years, get yourself vaccinated voluntarily.

To register for the COVID-19 vaccination, visit www.cowin.gov.in

karnataka information

No curfew extension for now

CM says decision on extending curbs or imposing full lockdown will be taken later, K'taka to import 5 lakh vials of Remdesivir

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AT a time when hospitals are running out of oxygen and fresh Covid-19 cases in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are seeing a surge, fueling speculation over a possible extension of the existing Corona Curfew, CM B S Yediyurappa on Tuesday said that curbs already in place will continue for now. The state is under a strict 'close down' till May 12 with a six-hour daily window.

Addressing the press after a crucial emergency Cabinet meeting, Yediyurappa said a decision on extension of the restrictions or a complete lockdown will be taken at a later stage. For now, the State Government is concentrating on removing hurdles in Covid-19 resource management.

A miffed Yediyurappa is said to have lashed out at ministers in the cabinet meeting for failing to stay in the districts they are in charge of during this public health crisis. Yediyurappa's government has come under severe public scrutiny, especially after 24 people — 23 of them Covid-19 patients — died in Chamarajanagar. To manage the crisis better, the CM has appointed five senior ministers of his cabinet and entrusted them with specific responsibilities.

"Jagadish Shettar will be in charge of oxygen centres and will coordinate with the Central Government to see that there is no shortage of oxygen. Deputy CM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan will coordinate with all medical colleges in the state and see to it that there is no shortage of Remdesivir doses and human resources. Ministers Basavaraj Bommai and R Ashok will look into the requirement of beds in government and private hospitals and medical colleges while Aravind Limbavali will be in charge of the BBMP War Room and ensure smooth connectivity for helplines," he said. P5

"In the cabinet, we discussed the immediate need for increased oxygen supply to the state. After our request, the Union Government increased allocation from 350 tons to 850 tons per day.

B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

As Bengaluru's demand for oxygen peaks, a group of people are seen trying to transport an oxygen cylinder on a two-wheeler, in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SHRIRAMBHAT

NATIONWIDE	MAY 3	MAY 4
Fresh cases	3,68,147	3,57,229
Recoveries	3,00,732	3,20,289
Deaths	3,417	3,449

STATEWIDE	MAY 3	MAY 4
Fresh cases	44,438	44,631
Recoveries	20,901	24,714
Deaths	239	292

K'TAKA SECOND WAVE BATTLE

- BBMP's 'on-sale' hospital bed allocation system exposed
- State Govt postpones PU-II exams in light of rising Covid cases
- Bengaluru Urban district reports a whopping 20,870 cases in one day
- State Govt says journalists to be considered as frontline workers

dsCunha/AB/739

Day after 24 deaths, it's DC vs DC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A day after horror unfolded at the Chamarajanagar District Hospital, the sequel expectedly came by way of an ugly blame game between authorities. The buck has to stop somewhere – and the Chamarajanagar Deputy Commissioner, Dr M R Ravi, declared that it stopped with his Mysuru counterpart. Rohini Sindhuri, Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru, was responsible for the tragedy for allegedly holding up timely supply of oxygen cylinders, he claimed.

The Chamarajanagar DC has come under fire for the hospital tragedy which saw the deaths of 24 Covid-19 patients, for alleged scarcity of oxygen. The three districts of Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar get their oxygen supplies from The Southern Gas Ltd and Padaki Industrial Gases in Mysuru. Officials from Chamarajanagar usually go with trucks and wait long hours to refill cylinders which are less than the allotted quota. This is, apparently, because the suppliers have been told to meet Mysuru's requirements on a priority, over the other two districts.

Responding to the claims of the Mysuru DC that supply of 250 oxygen cylinders were ensured to Chamarajanagar, DC Ravi issued a press statement on Tuesday, refuting her claims. "How can such a tragedy occur when they claim to have sent 250 cylinders," he questioned. "Sixty six oxygen cylinders reached the district around 1.30 pm on Sunday when the liquid medical oxygen (LMO) storage tank got exhausted. We received another 65 cylinders from private vendors," Ravi said.

CONTINUED ON: P3

CHAMARAJANAGAR LIMPING TO NORMAL

A day after 24 patients died due to lack of oxygen in Chamarajanagar, the district is limping back to normal amidst adequate supplies of oxygen, and patients getting admitted at the district hospital.

14 killed in turf fight after Bengal verdict

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

HOURS after trends showed Trinamool Congress' landslide victory in West Bengal on Sunday, the state convulsed under post-poll violence wave — from Sitalkuchi in the north to Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas — that left at least 14 people dead, including two women.

While the BJP claimed seven of the victims were its supporters, the Trinamool counted six of the deceased as its workers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and inquired about the situation. BJP president J P Nadda met the families of the victims to express solidarity.

BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya alleged that over 4,000 houses were ransacked and at least 100 shops were looted. The party also alleged that two of its booth agents were gang-raped, but there was no confirmation from the police.

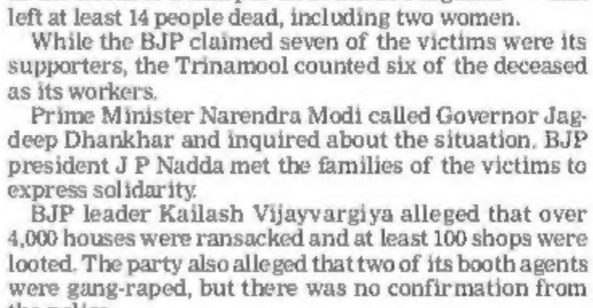
Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said in most of the cases, the deaths were a result of the BJP's factionalism between old workers and turncoats. "In some places, the BJP's provocation triggered public anger," he claimed.

A worker of the Indian Secular Force, a partner of the Left Front, was killed in Bhangar, South 24 Parganas.

In Kolkata's Kankurgachi, slain BJP worker Abhijit Sarkar's mother alleged that her son was beaten to death by Trinamool supporters.

Shovarani Mondal, a woman in her mid-60s, was allegedly killed at Jagaddal in North 24 Parganas, when she tried to protect her BJP worker son from being dragged away. In Sitalkuchi, 19-year-old Manik Baidya was shot dead by alleged Trinamool supporters.

The Trinamool alleged that two of their supporters, Saju Khan and Bivas Bag, were beaten to death by BJP supporters in Jamalpur, East Burdwan, for shouting 'Jay Bangla'. In Hooghly, Trinamool worker Debu Pramanik was hacked to death at his home. Another party man Ganesh Mandal was killed at Raina, East Burdwan. P10



BJP national president J P Nadda meets kin of victims in Sonarpur | PTI

IPL suspended after Covid-19 cases in bubble

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE inevitable has happened. The Indian cricket board (BCCI) postponed the Indian Premier League indefinitely. Just over a week ago, this newspaper had suspended its coverage of the IPL due to the pandemic and the devastation it has been causing in the country. It had said, the timing of the tournament was not right.

And over the past week, ever since the teams moved from Chennai and Mumbai, there has been anxiety among the players and support staff. It even led to players' pull-out and even Ravichandran Ashwin took a break to be with his family who had the infection.

But after two players in Kolkata Knight Riders and two support staff in Chennai Super Kings tested positive, the BCCI was still looking at shifting the IPL to Mumbai. But after Wriddhiman Saha tested positive for Covid-19 at the Sunrisers Hyderabad's camp, the board was forced to suspend it indefinitely. "These are difficult times, especially in India, and while we have tried to bring in some positivity and cheer, however, it is imperative that the tournament is now suspended and everyone goes back to their families and loved ones in these trying times," the IPL said in a statement.

While England, South Africa and New Zealand players and support staff will take charter flights soon, the Australian contingent is left stranded because of stringent policy of their government for those who return from India. Some Indian players have left for home.

Raise oxygen cap for state: HC to Centre

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has granted time till Wednesday morning to the Centre to decide about increasing the cap on allocation of oxygen and Remdesivir to the state, keeping in mind the deaths of patients owing to a lack of both. P4

Delhi HC show-cause notice to Union Govt

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the Union Government to show cause as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against it for failing to comply with the order on supply of life-sustaining oxygen to Delhi for treating Covid-19 patients. P9

NO OXYGEN LIFELINE, 14 MORE DIE IN K'TAKA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Hubballi, Bengaluru

CLOSE on the heels of the 24 Covid deaths in Chamarajanagar due to shortage of oxygen, at least 14 more such cases were reported from various parts of the state on Tuesday. Even as the deaths were attributed to oxygen shortage and messages went viral on social media, the authorities have remained in denial that the life saving gas was in short supply.

Five Covid-19 patients, who were on oxygen support, died at a private hospital in Hubballi on Tuesday evening. The family members of deceased have alleged shortage of oxygen, but District Health Officer Dr Yashwant Madinkar insisted that there is no shortage of supply in the district.

In Kalaburagi, four Covid-19 patients died in a span of 24 hours at the Afzalpur Taluk Government Hospital, Kalaburagi district. P4

Kolar DC Dr Selvamani and SP Karthick Reddy at the Wistron facility | EXPRESS

Wistron unit shut after 60 test positive

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

TAIWANESE iPhone contract manufacturer Wistron Corporation has shut its Narasapura unit in the district for seven days after about 60 employees tested positive for Covid-19. The unit has halted all work from May 1 to 7 on the instructions of Kolar Deputy Commissioner Dr Selvamani.

The DC, along with Kolar Superintendent of Police Karthick Reddy and other district officials, visited the factory and instructed the health officials to test employees. Sources said the company has asked all employees to get tested and submit Covid negative reports before resuming work on May 8.

The DC has also asked all industrial units in Vemgal and Narasapura industrial area to ensure safety of workers and to disinfect their premises regularly. She also said the district health officer has been instructed to visit all the units regularly and submit reports.

Chorus for lockdown grows louder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A day after CII president Uday Kotak called for a national lockdown to break the chain of transmission of coronavirus, many corporate leaders came forward to support the idea saying it is alright to take an economic hit to save lives. However, health experts are divided over the effectiveness of such a move at this stage.

"Saving lives is more important than producing steel. Production can suffer as long as the country is in need of any resource available with the company," said Sajjan Jindal, managing director of JSW Group, which supplies liquid oxygen to hospitals.

Another corporate leader, who did not wish to be named, said India's healthcare system is stretched to its limits. "At this point in time, saving lives is more important than economic activities. Suspending non-essential business activities and a complete lockdown for two weeks is the only way out," he said.

Real estate tycoon Niranjan Hiranandani said, "A complete economic lockdown will cast a dark shadow on the economy and lead to more fatalities due to increased unemployment."

Rohit Poddar, MD, Poddar Housing and Development Ltd, too feels a lockdown will have a drastic impact on the economy. "The need of the hour is to strike a balance between a full lockdown and allowing business operations to prevent a downward trajectory of the economy," he said. P9

People waiting to refill oxygen at Bahbar Gas Plant in Kanpur, UP on Tuesday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Twitter suspends Kangana's account

New Delhi: Twitter on Tuesday said it has permanently suspended Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's account for repeatedly violating the platform's rules. "We've been clear that we will take strong enforcement action on behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm," a Twitter spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Bill and Melinda Gates to get divorced

Seattle: The Microsoft co-founder and his wife said they would continue to work together at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest private charitable foundation. In identical tweets, they said that they had made the decision to end their marriage of 27 years. "We have raised three incredible children and built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives," they said in a statement, seeking space and privacy during this period. P11